WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1.   A method of providing a third party logging proxy
2   server, said method comprising:
3   obtaining one or more product identifiers from one or
4   more providers, each product identifier
5   corresponding to a product;
6   receiving a product sale identifier from a merchant;
7   identifying one of the product identifiers that
8   corresponds to the product sale identifier; and
9   storing a sales record in response to receiving the
10   product sale identifier.

1 2.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at least
3   one of the product identifiers from one of the
4   providers;
5   wherein the storing further includes:
6   calculating an account balance for the merchant.

1 3.   The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
2   receiving a payment from the merchant in response to
3   receiving the product sale identifier,
4   wherein the payment is calculated based on the
5   received royalty rate corresponding to the
6   product sale identifier.

1 4.   The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
2   calculating an account balance for the provider
3   corresponding with the identified product
4   identifier.

1   5.   The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

2   transferring funds corresponding to the provider's

3   account balance to the provider; and

4   modifying the provider's account balance in response

5   to the transferring.

1   6.   The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:

2   receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to

3   the merchant's account balance; and

4   modifying the merchant's account balance in response

5   to receiving the payment.

1   7.   The method as described in claim 1 wherein the

2   products include digital works, the method further

3   comprising:

4   receiving one or more digital works from the

5   providers;

6   storing the works on a nonvolatile storage device;

7   receiving a download request from a merchant computer

8   corresponding to the merchant; and

9   downloading one of the digital works to the merchant

10   computer in response to receiving the download

11   request.

1   8.   The method as described in claim 7 further comprising:

2   receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers

3   corresponding to the digital works; and

4   providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1   9.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2   registering each provider with the third party logging

3   proxy server prior to the obtaining; and

4   providing each provider with an access mechanism in

5   response to the registering.

1   10.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2   registering the merchant with the third party logging

3   proxy server prior to the receiving; and

4   providing the merchant with an access mechanism in

5   response to the registering.

1   11.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the

3   providers;

4   searching a data store in response to the inquiry;

5   preparing a search result in response to the

6   searching; and

7   returning the search result to the provider.

1   12.   The method as described in claim 11 wherein the search

2   result includes whether one or more merchants are

3   registered with the third party logging proxy server.

1   13.   An information handling system comprising:

2   one or more processors;

3   a memory accessible by the processors;

4   a network interface connecting the information

5   handling system to a computer network;

6   a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the

7   processors; and

8   a logging tool, the logging tool including:

9   means for obtaining one or more product

10   identifiers from one or more provider

11   computers connected to the computer network,

12   each product identifier corresponding to a

13   product;

14   means for receiving a product sale identifier

15   from a merchant computer connected to the

16   computer network;

17   means for identifying one of the product

18   identifiers that corresponds to the product

19   sale identifier; and

20   means for storing a sales record in response to

21   receiving the product sale identifier.

1   14.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   13 further comprising:

3   means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with

4   at least one of the product identifiers from one

5   of the provider computers;

6   wherein the means for storing further includes:

7   means for calculating an account balance for the

8   merchant corresponding to the merchant

9   computer.

1   15.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   14 further comprising:

3   means for receiving a payment from the merchant in

4   response to receiving the product sale

5   identifier,

6   wherein the payment is calculated based on the

7   received royalty rate corresponding to the

8   product sale identifier.

1   16.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   14 further comprising:

3   means for calculating an account balance for the
4   provider corresponding with the identified
5   product identifier.

1   17.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   16 further comprising:
3   means for transferring funds corresponding to the
4   provider's account balance to the provider; and
5   means for modifying the provider's account balance in
6   response to the transferring.

1   18.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   14 further comprising:
3   means for receiving a payment from the merchant
4   corresponding to the merchant's account balance;
5   and
6   means for modifying the merchant's account balance in
7   response to receiving the payment.

1   19.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   13 wherein the products include digital works, the
3   information handling system further comprising:
4   means for receiving one or more digital works from the
5   provider computers;
6   means for storing the works on the nonvolatile storage
7   device;
8   means for receiving a download request from the
9   merchant computer; and
10   means for downloading one of the digital works to the
11   merchant computer in response to receiving the
12   download request.

1   20.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   19 further comprising:
3   means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the
4   providers corresponding to the digital works; and
5   means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1   21.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   13 further comprising:
3   means for registering each provider computer with the
4   third party logging proxy server prior to the
5   means for obtaining; and
6   means for providing each provider computer with an
7   access mechanism in response to the registering.

1   22.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   13 further comprising:
3   means for registering the merchant computer with the
4   third party logging proxy server prior to the
5   means for receiving; and
6   means for providing the merchant computer with an
7   access mechanism in response to the registering.

1   23.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   13 further comprising:
3   means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the
4   provider computers;
5   means for searching the nonvolatile storage device in
6   response to the inquiry;
7   means for preparing a search result in response to the
8   searching; and
9   means for returning the search result to the provider
10   computer.

1 24. The information handling system as described in claim
2   23 wherein the search result includes whether one or
3   more merchants are registered with the third party
4   logging proxy server.

1 25. A computer program product for providing a third party
2   logging proxy server, said computer program product
3   comprising:
4   means for obtaining one or more product identifiers
5   from one or more providers, each product
6   identifier corresponding to a product;
7   means for receiving a product sale identifier from a
8   merchant;
9   means for identifying one of the product identifiers
10   that corresponds to the product sale identifier;
11   and
12   means for storing a sales record in response to
13   receiving the product sale identifier.

1 26. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2   further comprising:
3   means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with
4   at least one of the product identifiers from one
5   of the providers;
6   wherein the means for storing further includes:
7   means for calculating an account balance for the
8   merchant.

1 27. The computer program product as described in claim 26
2   further comprising:

3   means for receiving a payment from the merchant in
4   response to receiving the product sale
5   identifier,
6   wherein the payment is calculated based on the
7   received royalty rate corresponding to the
8   product sale identifier.

1 28. The computer program product as described in claim 26
2   further comprising:
3   means for calculating an account balance for the
4   provider corresponding with the identified
5   product identifier.

1 29. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2   further comprising:
3   means for transferring funds corresponding to the
4   provider's account balance to the provider; and
5   means for modifying the provider's account balance in
6   response to the transferring.

1 30. The computer program product as described in claim 26
2   further comprising:
3   means for receiving a payment from the merchant
4   corresponding to the merchant's account balance;
5   and
6   means for modifying the merchant's account balance in
7   response to receiving the payment.

1 31. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2   wherein the products include digital works, the
3   computer program product further comprising:
4   means for receiving one or more digital works from the
5   providers;

6   means for storing the works on a nonvolatile storage

7   device;

8   means for receiving a download request from a merchant

9   computer corresponding to the merchant; and

10   means for downloading one of the digital works to the

11   merchant computer in response to receiving the

12   download request.

1 32. The computer program product as described in claim 31

2   further comprising:

3   means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the

4   providers corresponding to the digital works; and

5   means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1 33. The computer program product as described in claim 25

2   further comprising:

3   means for registering each provider with the third

4   party logging proxy server prior to the

5   obtaining; and

6   means for providing each provider with an access

7   mechanism in response to the registering.

1 34. The computer program product as described in claim 25

2   further comprising:

3   means for registering the merchant with the third

4   party logging proxy server prior to the

5   receiving; and

6   means for providing the merchant with an access

7   mechanism in response to the registering.

1 35. The computer program product as described in claim 25

2   further comprising:

3   means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the

4   providers;

5   means for searching a data store in response to the

6   inquiry;

7   means for preparing a search result in response to the

8   searching; and

9   means for returning the search result to the provider.

1   36.   The computer program product as described in claim 35

2   wherein the search result includes whether one or more

3   merchants are registered with the third party logging

4   proxy server.